

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4336

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS BEXP NO NATO

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTERVOLL DISCUSSES AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT I
SSUE

REF: SECDEF 171427Z SEP 74

1. SUMMARY. MINISTER OF DEFENSE FOSTERVOLL HAS INFORMED
ME OF HIS COMPLETE PERSONAL SATISFACTION WITH HIS RECENT
TRIP TO THE U.S. AND PROVIDED SOME INTERESTING INSIGHTS
INTO NORWEGIAN THINKING ON COPRODUCTION AND OFFSET
ARRANGEMENTS OUTSIDE THE AIRCRAFT PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. IN WIDE-RANGING MEETING SEPTEMBER 23 WITH MINISTER
OF DEFENSE FOSTERVOLL, I DISCUSSED THE MINISTER'S RECENT
TRIP TO THE U.S. AND ASKED HIM TO CLARIFY REMARKS MADE
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ON NATIONAL TELEVISION RECENTLY CONCERNING INDUSTRIAL

PARTICIPATION. THE MEETING WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY MAJOR GENERAL HAMRE, DEFENSE MINISTRY MATERIEL CHIEF AND CHAIRMAN OF THE MULTINATIONAL FIGHTER GROUP STEERING COMMITTEE; AND EMBASSY MAAG CHIEF, COL. HERMAN.

3. FOSTERVOLL WAS OBVIOUSLY HIGHLY PLEASED WITH HIS TRIP TO THE U.S. HE KNEW SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER WISHED ALSO TO DISCUSS SECURITY POLICY AND REGRETTED THAT THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT TIME "THIS TRIP" TO DO SO. FOSTERVOLL CHARACTERIZED THE REACTIONS OF HIS DUTCH, BELGIAN, AND DANISH COUNTERPARTS AS "POSITIVE."

4. GENERAL HAMRE, WHO WAS FREQUENTLY CONSULTED BY FOSTERVOLL DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING, VOLUNTEERED THAT THE REVISED ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS POSED BY THE MULTINATIONAL FIGHTER GROUP PRIOR TO THE RECENT VISIT WERE EXPECTED HERE LATER THIS MONTH (BY OCTOBER 1) FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE PRESENTATION TO THE FOUR MINISTERS IN BRUSSELS ON OCTOBER 7. HAMRE VOICED SPECIAL INTEREST IN ANY INDICATIONS OF CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER PROGRAM. THIS WOULD BE VALUABLE AMMUNITION FOR THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT AS IT PREPARES FOR ITS OWN PARLIAMENTARY DELIBERATIONS. IN ADDITION TO THE UPDATED ANSWERS, HAMRE INDICATED THE STEERING COMMITTEE WAS ALSO AWAITING THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING IN WASHINGTON AND SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR MINISTER VANDEN BOEYNANTS REGARDING A CONTRACT FORM.

5. IN A NATIONALLY TELEVISED INTERVIEW ON SEPTEMBER 18 EVENING NEWSCAST, FOSTERVOLL STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE TO NORWAY OF PARTICIPATION IN THE PRODUCTION OF THE SELECTED AIRCRAFT (FULL TRANSCRIPT FOLLOWS BY UNCLASSIFIED SEPTEL). I USED THE OCCASION OF THIS MEETING TO DRAW THE MINISTER AND HAMRE OUT ON COPRODUCTION, A SUBJECT OF INCREASING SIGNIFICANCE TO THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT. FOSTERVOLL STATED THAT ALTHOUGH NORWAY IS SHORT OF MANPOWER RESOURCES, HIS COUNTRY IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ASSURING COPRODUCTION MEANINGFUL TO NORWEGIAN INDUSTRY. SPECIFICALLY, COPRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD FOCUS ON ELECTRONICS AND AVIONICS WITH THE BENEFITS STRETCHED OUT OVER THE LONG TERM. THE MINISTER BELIEVES THAT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER WILL OPERATE TO NORWAY'S

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ADVANTAGE IN DEVELOPMENT OF DATA TECHNIQUES AND SOPHISTICATED MICROMINIATURIZATION. BOTH FOSTERVOLL AND HAMRE AGREE ON THE DESIRABILITY OF COPRODUCTION WITHIN THE AIRCRAFT PROGRAM AS WELL AS OFFSET ARRANGEMENTS OUTSIDE THE PROGRAM. HAMRE MENTIONED INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION OF GAS TURBINES (RELATED TO NORWEGIAN EXPLOITATION OF OFFSHORE OIL) AND INERTIAL NAVIGATION SYSTEMS FOR MISSILES AS TWO AREAS OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST OUTSIDE THE COPRODUCTION

SCHEME. HAMRE DID RECOGNIZE THAT NORWEGIAN ATTITUDES ON OFFSET ARRANGEMENTS ARE PROBABLY NOT SHARED BY BELGIUM OR THE NETHERLANDS WHERE THERE ARE STRONG REASONS FOR RESTRICTING COPRODUCTION TO THE AIRCRAFT PROGRAM.

6. I ASKED IF THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED A CLEAR POLICY--COORDINATED WITH THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR--ON COPRODUCTION AND OFFSET ARRANGEMENTS. HAMRE REPLIED THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THIS WERE CURRENTLY UNDER ACTIVE STUDY AND A FIRM POLICY WILL BE FORMULATED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

7. FOSTERVOLL BELIEVES THAT ANY DECISION ON AN AIRCRAFT BY THE FOUR COUNTRIES BEFORE THE FIRST OF THE YEAR IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY.
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